

**The Annual Parish Meeting held at Colgate Village Hall on 11th March 2024.
Looking back on 23/24**

BRIEF REPORT OF PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS FOR 2023/24

Census update

The 2011 census confirms that there are 1087 residents (male-541 and female 546). There are 398 households in total. The 2011 figures have been put in brackets for comparison.

The 2021 census provided the following information:

- **Number of households** -1534(398)

- **Sex**

Female	1,881 (546)
Male	1,844(541)
Total	3725(1087)

- **Age**

Aged 15 years and under	775
Aged 16 to 64 years	2,452
Aged 65 years and over	498
Total	3725

The Kilnwood Vale development continues to grow at speed, with total number of residents exceeding the total number of residents in both Colgate and Faygate collectively.

The Council, Councillors and Employees

Councillors (who are all volunteers).

CLlr Marley (Chair)
CLlr Calvert
CLlr Crosdil (Vice)
CLlr Finnegan
CLlr Davies
CLlr Garley
CLlr Faith*
CLlr Staff
CLlr Humphrey

*Co-opted 23

With over 75% of the Councillors being voted into post, and with the Clerk holding the CILCA qualification, the Parish Council have the General Powers of Competency (May 2023)

Councillors have attended Horsham District Association of Local Councils (HALC) meeting, meetings with West Sussex County Council (WSSC) and Horsham District Council (HDC), and stakeholder meeting with Kilnwood Vale and HDC Green Team. The Clerk and Councillors will continue to attend courses and workshop to ensure the Council is up to date on all new regulations.

Employees

Mr McGill joined the Council in 2021 as the Litter Warden and remains in post. Mr McGill works 4 hours per week. The Parish Council will continue to meet the increased costs of Mr McGill's salary from the precept since the HDC grant could not be increased. Going into 2024 Mr McGill will begin collecting litter at the three park areas in Kilnwood vale and will increase his hours by 1 hour per month (1/4 hour per week).

The Clerk has been with Colgate PC since 2012. The Clerk is employed to work 12 hours per week.

Achievements:

Covid has more or less stopped influencing the way in which the council continued its business in 23/24.

Continued the use of Facebook as another way of engaging with the residents of the parish. There are eighty-four members to date.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263093597685939>

The website has been updated and continues to be a useful source of information.

WWW.colgatefaygate.com

The speed limit on Old Crawley Road following a fatal accident was reduced to 40mph and the stretch of Forest Road from Colgate Village towards Roffey was also reduced to 40mph after Cllr Garley worked with WSSC to achieve this.

Grant Application- Colgate Parish Council awarded the following:

£1000 awarded to St Catherines and £38 for a banner to support the recycling centre located at Colgate VH.

The defibrillators located at four different sites in the parish continue to be maintained by the council and the Faygate unit located at Faygate lane has been called upon twice in the last year. The defibrillator cabinets in Colgate and Faygate Lane were updated to a new model. The council will continue to maintain the units for community use.



The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) has recorded traffic speed and flow in both Faygate and Colgate villages over the year. The council purchased the second unit for Faygate Village. Solar panels were purchased for both the Faygate and Colgate unit. Cutting back of shrubbery on Forest Road (towards Pease Pottage) was undertaken in November 2023 allowing the solar panel more access to the light/sun.



Online banking has been a success, and it was agreed to open a reserve account (Liquidity Management Reserve Account 95 day notice) that provides interest on £8000 of the reserves held by the council.

Continued support and awareness of our armed forces past and present by displaying the Silent Heroes (Colgate Village Hall, Durrants Village and Kilnwood Vale School) in partnership with The Royal British Legion during the month of November.



A recycling site at Colgate Village Hall has been set up and piloted. It was introduced 6 months ago. The Colgate recycling initiative has been a great success. A core of over a dozen villagers meet every month to recycle materials which Sussex Green Living then uses to generate income for the Sussex Air Ambulance and the Springboard Project that supports young children and families. Colgate Pre school now recycles through this village initiative.

We hope to find champions in Faygate and KWV to expand this project.

Cllr Finnegan continued through 23/24 liaising with Durrants Village over the use of facilities at the retirement home and has had the permissive path unlocked and tidied up so all Faygate village residents can access the path. Negotiations continue with regards to the library and other amenities. HDC and WSCC have taken over the negotiations on the outstanding s106 agreement.

Working with District and County Councillors and the police to improve the lives of residents in the parish.

A new noticeboard was installed at the large play area in Kilnwood Vale. The Parish council have contacts with the KWV Residents Association and want to thank them for their support in enabling the installation of the noticeboard. (Located at Rainbow fields)



The Parish Council negotiated a new salt storage facility at KWV. This is located at the compound at the end of Illet Way.

Finance

The accounts remain in a healthy state and both the internal auditor, Mark Mulberry and external auditor, Moors signed the accounts off with no recommendation in May 2023. [Internal audit](#) (22/23)

The precept 23/24- £32,687

Council Infrastructure Levy

CIL monies spent during 23/24

Purchase of additional VAS and solar panels-£3289

Shrubbery cut back-£671.

Installation of solar panels-£238

Total of CIL monies spent in 23/24- £-4198 (C/f £2388 to spend before 2026.)

Planning

HDC has a duty to refer all planning applications relating to the Parish to the Council to give the opportunity for comments in the light of local knowledge, but the Parish Council take no part in the granting or refusal of permission.

17 Planning meetings were held during 23/24 (March to beginning March)

Potential new development in the Parish - Land West of Ifield is still being considered and comments to HDC have been made via the local Plan consultation.

Development of Land North of Horsham continues.
The Kilnwood Vale development continues to grow.
Water Neutrality Policy has impacted on the approval of all planning applications within the district.

Horsham District Council have not yet signed off on the Local Plan, which is currently out for consultation. The Parish Council made comments on the Local Plan with the main concern being lack of large infrastructure to support the proposed large developments.

Action plan and development into 24-25

The Council continues to promote community cohesion between all the communities within the parish. The Parish will remain stakeholders in the development of the new community hall in Kilnwood Vale and will work towards making closer ties with the Kilnwood Vale community.

Speed /parking/traffic remain a concern to the residents and the Council will strive to improve traffic issues. The racing along the A264 will continue to be monitored.

The Council will continue to support Community Speed Watch and the use of the speed gun.

Colgate Parish Council will continue to offer their Grant Applications Scheme and CIL Application scheme where charities and groups that enhance the wellbeing of the local community within the Parish can apply for a grant up to £1000.

The Council will strive to ensure the Winter Maintenance Plan is fit for purpose and ensure the salt bins are ready for use.

The Council intends to ensure that Councillors and the Clerk are fully up to date on legal and Council matters by ensuring Councillors and Clerk are offered a wide range of training and personal development. Councillors will continue to attend various meetings of local associations.

Colgate Parish Council will continue to work closely with WSCC and HDC and share minutes and newsletters with Colgate and Kilnwood Vale Schools and Kilnwood Vale Community Group and Durrant Retirement Village.

Expand community cohesions especially within the developing areas of the Parish.

Provide a salt reserve within the confines of Kilnwood Vale so residents can refill the existing salt bins during inclement weather,

Councillors will continue to perform risk assessments of the Councils' ever-increasing assets.

The Council will review existing policies and develop new policies where appropriate.

The Parish Council will look at ways in which they can implement the Climate Change policy.

The Council will develop the website to ensure it is accessible for all and continue to monitor the success of the Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/263093597685939>

<http://www.colgatefaygate.com/>

Continue with the everyday business of a Parish Council in an effective manner.

Thank you.

The Clerk and Councillors value the support and guidance of Cllr Nagel, Cllr Kitchen, and Cllr Hogben over the last year.

A big thank you to both Colgate Village Hall and Durrants Village for allowing the Council to hold meetings at their respective venues. Thank you to Dennis Cooper at Durrants village for organising the meeting room.

The Council have collaborated closely with several teams within WSCC and HDC this year and are grateful for their support. Stuart Card (HDC) and his team provide excellent support to Colgate Parish council with the fly tipping issues which are unfortunately ongoing. He and his team deal swiftly with any reports of fly tipping for which we are grateful.

The Litter Warden, Mr McGill continues to provide good service to the residents and is appreciated by the Council. He has been invaluable in highlighting the increased fly tipping in the parish and assisting with leaf clearance.

The Councillors are also grateful to all those residents who attend the Council meetings.

The Councillors also want to thank Deborah Luxford for volunteering to coordinate the Winter Maintenance Plan and posting the agenda. Thanks to Charlene Cauliffe for assisting with the noticeboard at Kilwood Vale.

Thank you to all the Community Speed Watch Volunteers who are making a difference in decreasing the speed of the traffic on Forest Road.

Support for Local Organisations

During the year, the Council made grants to Colgate Memorial Hall, Faygate Village Hall, and the Parochial Church Council and paid £10 for newsletters from the Gatwick Conservation Group and £50 to AIRS.

The Parish remains members of the following institutions:

Action in Rural Sussex (Airs)

National Ass. Of Local Councils (NALC)

Horsham Ass of Local Councils (HALC)

Society of local Councils and Clerks (SLCC)

West Sussex Ass. Of Local Councils (WSALC)

Prepared for the Chair by the Clerk 1st March 2024.